

03040206-10
(Waccamaw River)

General Description

Watershed 03040206-10 (formerly 03040206-150 plus the remaining river section from 03040207-040) is located in Georgetown and Horry Counties and consists primarily of the **Waccamaw River** and its tributaries from Socastee Creek (AIWW) to Winyah Bay. The watershed occupies 55,596 acres of the Coastal Zone region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 33.3% forested wetland, 21.6% forested land, 13.6% urban land, 11.1% nonforested wetland, 9.6% water, 6.9% agricultural land, 2.9% scrub/shrub land, and 1.0% barren land.

This section of the Waccamaw River accepts drainage from its upper reaches, together with Oatbed Creek, Seven Prongs, Peach Creek, Old River (Nimrod Creek), Clark Creek, Big Swamp, Old Dock Creek (Righthand Creek), and Silvers Creek. Bull Creek enters the river next followed by Prince Creek, Vaux Creek, Silver Creek, Collins Creek, Cow House Creek, and Black Creek (White Creek). Sandhole Creek (Ruinsville Creek, Crane Creek) enters the river next followed by Springfield Creek, Brookgreen Creek, Pawleys Creek, Oatland Creek, Waverly Creek, Butler Creek, Schooner Creek, Caledonia Creek (Duncan Creek) and Jericho Creek. The Waccamaw River drains into the Great Pee Dee River in the headwaters of Winyah Bay. There are a total of 117.5 stream miles, 581.6 acres of lake waters, and 3,493.6 acres of estuarine areas in this watershed. The Waccamaw River is classified FW* (dissolved oxygen not less than 4.0 mg/l and pH between 5.0 and 8.5) from the top of the watershed to the river's confluence with Thoroughfare Creek. The tributaries along this portion of the river are classified FW. Downstream of the confluence, the river is classified SA* (dissolved oxygen not less than 4.0 mg/l) and its tributaries are classified SA.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
MD-146	P/W	FW*	WACCAMAW RIVER & AIWW 1 MI BELOW JCT, BUCKSPORT LANDING
MD-137	S/W	FW*	WACCAMAW R. NEAR MOUTH OF BULL CK AT CHANNEL MARKER 50
MD-138	P/SPRP	FW*	WACCAMAW RIVER AT CHANNEL MARKER 57
MD-142	P/INT	SA*	WACCAMAW RIVER DOWNSTREAM OF BUTLER ISLAND AT MARKER 86

Waccamaw River – There are four SCDHEC monitoring sites along this section of the Waccamaw River and recreational uses are fully supported at all sites. At the furthest upstream site (**MD-146**), aquatic life uses are not supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions, which are compounded by a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration. Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total phosphorus concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Further downstream (**MD-137**), aquatic life uses are not supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions, which are compounded by a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in total phosphorus concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter. At the next site downstream (**MD-138**), aquatic life uses are partially supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions, which are compounded by a significant

decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. At the furthest downstream site (**MD-142**), aquatic life uses are partially supported due to dissolved oxygen excursions, which are compounded by a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration. A significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter.

*A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the **Waccamaw River** and the **Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway** within this watershed (see advisory p.106).*

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM FACILITY NAME PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)	NPDES# TYPE COMMENT
WACCAMAW RIVER GSW&SA/SCHWARTZ PLANT/MYRTLE BEACH WWTP PIPE #: 01B FLOW: 13.51 PIPE #: 01C FLOW: 17.0	SC0037753 MAJOR DOMESTIC
WACCAMAW RIVER GSW&SA/SCHWARTZ PLANT PIPE #: 006 FLOW: 0.47	SC0037753 MAJOR DOMESTIC LAND APPLICATION
WACCAMAW RIVER TRIBUTARY GSW&SA/SCHWARTZ PLANT PIPE #: 005 FLOW: 0.48	SC0037753 MAJOR DOMESTIC LAND APPLICATION
WACCAMAW RIVER GCW&SD/MURRELLS INLET WWTP PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 2.0	SC0040959 MAJOR DOMESTIC
WACCAMAW RIVER GSW&SA/BUCKSPORT WWTP PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.2	SC0040886 MINOR DOMESTIC
WACCAMAW RIVER GCW&SD/PAWLEYS AREA WWTP PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 2.75	SC0039951 MAJOR DOMESTIC
WACCAMAW RIVER GSW&SA/BULL CREEK WTP PIPE #: 001 FLOW: M/R	SCG645042 MINOR DOMESTIC
WACCAMAW RIVER CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH/WATER RECLAMATION PIPE #: 001 FLOW: M/R	SC0039039 MINOR DOMESTIC
BROOKGREEN CREEK GCW&SD/WACCAMAW REGIONAL WTP PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.35	SCG643001 MINOR DOMESTIC

COLLINS CREEK TRIBUTARY
BUSHWACKER INC./SAND HILL PIT
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: M/R

SCG730297
MINOR INDUSTRIAL

WACCAMAW RIVER TRIBUTARY
BROWN MOORE & PATRICK LLC/BM&P SAND PIT
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: M/R

SCG730524
MINOR INDUSTRIAL

Nonpoint Source Management Program

Land Disposal Activities

Landfill Facilities

LANDFILL NAME
FACILITY TYPE

PERMIT #
STATUS

ROMMIE GRAY COMPOSTING FACILITY
COMPOSTING

222638-3001
INACTIVE

Land Application Sites

LAND APPLICATION SYSTEM
FACILITY NAME

ND#
TYPE

SPRAYFIELD
GSW&SA BULL CREEK WTP

ND0069892
DOMESTIC

Mining Activities

MINING COMPANY
MINE NAME

PERMIT #
MINERAL

T & J BUILDERS, INC.
T & J MINE

1681-51
SAND

R.L. CAUSEY LANDSCAPING
VEREEN PIT

1053-51
SAND/CLAY

BUSHWACKER INC.
SAND HILL MINE

1358-43
SAND

BROWN MOORE & PATRICK LLC
POND ROAD MINE

1701-43
SAND/CLAY

BROWN MOORE & PATRICK LLC
B, M, & P SANDPIT MINE

1574-51
SAND

Water Quantity

Portions of this watershed fall within the Waccamaw Capacity Use Area and large groundwater uses must be reported (see Capacity Use Program p.27).

WATER USER
STREAM

REG. CAPACITY (MGD)
PUMPING CAP.Y (MGD)

GEORGETOWN COUNTY W&S
WACCAMAW RIVER

8.29
12.23

Growth Potential

There is a high potential for residential and commercial growth in this watershed, which contains portions of the Towns of Bucksport, Surfside Beach, and Murrells Inlet. The area is developed with many residential and resort communities. The area west of the AIWW is accessible only by boat and is not expecting significant growth. Water infrastructure is located throughout most of the watershed, and sewer is currently located in the northern tip as well as in many of the newer developments throughout the region. Most areas of the Waccamaw Neck now have sewer services. Along with resort and residential developments, commercial uses and two large tracts of semi-public land are located along the U.S. Hwy. 17 corridor.

Watershed Protection and Restoration

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

A total maximum daily load (TMDL) for oxygen demanding substances has been developed for the main stem of the Waccamaw River and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) in watersheds 02040206-09, 03040206-10, and 03040208-03. The TMDL addresses 12 separate monitoring stations on the State's 1998 303(d) list of impaired waters. The TMDL, based on a maximum 0.1 mg/l deficit allowed in waters that do not meet applicable dissolved oxygen standards due to natural conditions, will result in a decrease of approximately 63% in the permitted oxygen demanding load discharged to the system. The decreased loadings are being implemented through the NPDES permitting system with new, more restrictive limits becoming final at the conclusion of appropriate compliance schedules.